

concurrently-filed Request for Removal of Finality, Applicants believe that the amendments presented herein can be properly entered. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims, as amended, in light of the remarks presented herein is respectfully requested.

AMENDMENTS

In the claims

Please add new claim 147 as follows:

49 ~~147~~. (New) A duplex comprising an oligonucleotide primer and a template, wherein the primer hybridizes to a specific region of the template and wherein the primer is covalently coupled to a chromophore or fluorophore so as to allow chain extension by a polymerase.

REMARKS

Claims 75-77, 81-83, 88, 98-103, 105-107, 109-111, and 118-146 were pending in the present application. Claims 112-117 have been withdrawn as a result of a restriction requirement. By virtue of this response, new claim 147 has been added. Accordingly, claims 75-77, 81-83, 88, 98-103, 105-107, 109-111, and 118-147 are currently under consideration.

Applicants acknowledge the withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph rejections that were set forth in paragraphs 5a, 5b and 5c of the previous Office Action. Inasmuch as the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph rejection that was set forth in paragraph 5d of the previous Office Action has not been reiterated, Applicants assume that this rejection has also been withdrawn, and request confirmation that this is the case.

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Houtteman for the courtesy of a telephone interview held on November 12, 1999 with Scott Bortner and Sean Brennan. The amendments and remarks presented herein reflect the constructive exchange with the Examiner that occurred during the interview.